(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Assistants in Department of Information Technology are stagnating from the last 10 to 15 years in their cadre;

(d) the measures being proposed to upgrade the post or under take review of the cadre; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The Government in October, 2003 took several decisions to restructure the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) comprehensively, which also included Assistants Grade of Central Secretariat Service. The proposals relating to cadre review of Non-CSS cadres are considered by the administrative Ministry concerned in consultation with the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) As restructuring of CSS has been done in 2003, there is no immediate proposal for a cadre review or upgradation of the post.

Public-private partnership for hospitals

†4662. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has suggested the State Governments to run their hospitals under public-private partnership;

(b) if so, the suggestion in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the aim of private sector is to earn maximum profit for capital investment;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) whether medical facilities in the country are likely to be more expensive with implementation of the above suggestion?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Planning Commission has suggested to the State Governments to consider using Public Private Partnership (PPP) to improve utilization of existing hospitals, and also to create and expand hospital facilities in the future.

(c) to (e) The Approach Paper to the XI Five Year states that the poor are forced to approach private practitioners who charge exorbitant fees due to inadequate and non-performing public health infrastructure. Approach Paper to the XI Five Year Plan has suggested to experiment with different systems of private public partnership, examples of which already exist in some States. This is with the objective of creating competition in the health service sector and empowering health service seekers to exercise choice.

Assessment of GDP by RBI

†4663. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per an assessment of the Reserve Bank of India, the growth rate of Gross Domestic Products likely to reach 9.2 per cent during the year 2006-07;

(b) if not, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the growth rate of agricultural sector is likely to be reduced again in the said year; and

(d) if so, the possibility of this shortfall in the said year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) A recent Report released by the Reserve Bank of India entitled 'Macroeconomic and Monetary Developments in 2006-07' states that according to the advance estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to be 9.2%, (at factor cost, at constant 1999-2000 prices) during the year 2006-07.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.